

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAI'I
2003**

**IN COMPLIANCE WITH
ACT 41,
SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII, 1992
ESTABLISHING THE
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INCENTIVE PROGRAM
AND THE PRIMARY CARE ROUNDTABLE**

**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAI'I
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BACKGROUND

The State Legislature established a Primary Health Care Incentive Program through Act 41 of the Session Laws of Hawai‘i 1992. This program was established within the Department of Health to assess and develop strategies to address the primary health care needs of medically underserved populations of Hawai‘i. An integral component of this program was the creation of the Primary Care Roundtable that is a volunteer group composed of individuals interested in primary care issues. It acts in an advisory capacity to the Department of Health and the Legislature on primary health care issues.

The Family Health Services Division of the Department of Health provides staff support for the Roundtable. Funding for the staff comes primarily through the federal Primary Care Office grant. No funds are allocated by the state for the Roundtable.

Statewide meetings of the Roundtable are usually held quarterly via interactive television and video conferencing provided at the State Video Conference Centers and the University of Hawai‘i Interactive Television System. Also included are twelve rural hospital sites of the Hawai‘i Health System Corporation. Supplemental meetings and briefings are called whenever appropriate.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ROUNDTABLE FOR 2002

The Roundtable provided a forum for discussion and sharing of experiences on the following issues and topics:

- Federal designations for Hawai‘i – Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUP/A); Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) for primary care, dental and mental health. These designations can bring additional federal resources to the state. The new designations obtained in 2002 are: Low-Income Dental HPSAs for the Island of Maui and Kaua‘i County; Mental Health designation for Waimea, Kaua‘i; and Facility HPSA designations of Primary Care, Dental, and Mental Health for the Federal Detention Center – Honolulu; and the Halawa Correctional Facility.
- Workforce activities to improve recruitment and retention of primary care personnel in geographic areas of needs: Area Health Education Centers; National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment programs; State Loan Repayment possibilities.
- Development of a comprehensive Rural Health Plan for the state, which involved input from 22 community meetings statewide. A constellation of four interesting “root causes” of rural health concerns was identified: economy, education, access to care and behavioral health.
- Community development activities on Kaua‘i to improve access to primary care and to establish a second Community Health Center on the east side of the island.

- Community development activities in Ko'olau Loa on O'ahu, and in Kona to enhance primary care services for underserved populations.
- Hawai'i Uninsured Project, a program of the Hawai'i Institute for Public Affairs that addresses the problem of the uninsured in Hawai'i.
- President Bush's initiative, which provides increased federal funding to establish 1,200 new community health center sites nationwide within 5 years.
- Advocacy by Community Health Centers (CHC) for additional funding required to provide services to uninsured individuals.
- Department of Health primary care purchase-of-service contracts for the uninsured to community-based providers.
- Need for more standard oral health services for uninsured individuals, low-income population, and QUEST clients, with an emphasis on the neighbor islands. Statewide oral health strategic planning process initiated.
- Collaborative initiative of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to provide and enhance accessible comprehensive health care services: tele-radiology, distance learning, and critical access hospital designation.

PLAN FOR 2003

The Roundtable and its membership are committed to continue taking an active role in making recommendations to the Department of Health and the Legislature.

Priorities will include the following:

- Improved workforce development activities including recruitment, retention and training of health professionals
- Increased funding to safety-net providers who serve underserved individuals.
- Improved oral health services for the underserved populations.